Expansion of profile for women in Armed Forces

914. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the profile for women in the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) whether the Ministry has also called for a study on the possibility of giving women officers permanent commission; and

(d) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) In the armed forces, women officers are inducted in Medical, Nursing and Dental Services both in Permanent Commission (PC) as well as Short Service Commission (SSC), Induction of women in other cadres of the Armed Forces commenced in 1992 as Short Service Commission Officers (SSC) with initial tenure of five years extendable by 5 years. Presently, the tenure of all women SSC officers in the three Services is 10 years of service initially, extendable by 4 more years.

In Army, Women officers in SSC are inducted in the Army Air Defence, Corps of Signals, Corps of Engineers, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Intelligence Corps, Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General's Department, in the Air Force in the Flying (Transport & Helicopter), Technical, Administration, Logistics, Accounts, Education and Meteorology Branches and in the Navy in Logistics, Education, Law, Air Traffic Controller cadres.

A study on all aspects related to women officers in Armed Forces including permanent commission was undertaken by the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). The study report has been submitted to the Government.

Modernisation of IAF

915. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF is going to modernize its combat aircrafts with an investment of Rs. 20,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details of the modernisation plan;

(c) whether this plan includes acquisition of new fighter craft also;

(d) if so, what is the progress of negotiations for Mirage fighters from Qatar;

(e) the period fixed for above modernisation plan;

(f) the details of aircraft in the inventory going to retire as a part of this modernization;

(g) whether all the MiG variants are going to be decommissioned very soon; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) and (e) Modernisation of combat aircraft and acquisition of new aircraft are on-going processes undertaken from time to time to meet the operational requirements of the Air Force. The Air Force has identified aircraft including MiG-29 and Mirage 2000, for upgrade during the 11th Plan period.

(d) Negotiations for procurement of Mirage fighters from Qatar were held but no agreement could be reached.

(f) As various aircraft complete their technical life or otherwise lose their utility, they are phased out and new aircraft inducted.

(g) No, sir.

(h) Does not arise'

Premature retirement by officers in Army and IAF

† 916. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of the number of officers in Army and Air Force who have taken premature retirement during the last three years;

(b) the number of officers who applied for premature retirement in the year 2006;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.